IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

while the portable computing device is operational for a user, detecting that an external computing device is actively connected to ~~communicate~~ transfer data and provide power to the portable computing device; and

responsive to detecting the external computing device, suspending execution of at least a portion of a program that would otherwise reduce a power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a includes suspending occurrence of a timeout feature.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~2~~1, further comprising transmitting one or more communications from the portable computing device using the external computing device when the external computing device is actively connected to the portable computing device.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising coupling a signal line to the external computing device, and determining a type of the external computing device using the signal line.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes selectively suspending the occurrence of the time-out feature when the external computing device is actively coupled.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes disabling the time-out feature while the external computing device is actively coupled.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting that an external computing device is actively connected to communicate and providing power includes measuring a voltage level of a signal provided from the external computing device.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting that an external computing device is actively connected to communicate and providing power includes coupling the portable computing device to the external computing device using a serial connector.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

     detecting that an external computing device is actively connected to communicate and provide power to the portable computing device; and

responsive to detecting the ~~signal~~external computing device, suspending execution of at least a portion of a program that would otherwise reduce a power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity;

wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes suspending occurrence of a timeout feature; and wherein the method further comprises launching a program that is transferred to the portable computing device through the external computing device once the occurrence of the time-out feature is suspended.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein launching a program includes providing a display content selected from a group of display contents consisting of a world clock, a digital image stored from a digital camera device, and a display of real-time information provided by a data network.

Claims 11-29 (CANCELED)

30.   (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

detecting that an ~~external computing~~accessory device is actively connected to communicate and provide power to the portable computing device; and

responsive to detecting the ~~external computing~~accessory device, suspending execution of at least a portion of a program that would otherwise reduce a power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity;

wherein detecting that an ~~external computing~~accessory device is actively connected and providing power to the portable computing device includes coupling one or more signal

lines accessible through an outlet of the portable computing device to the accessory device; and

      wherein the method further comprises determining a type of the ~~external computing~~accessory device from a signal on the one or more signal lines.

31.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising configuring execution of software on the portable computing device based on the type of the ~~external computing~~accessory device that is determined from the signal on the one or more signal lines.

Claims 32-33: (CANCELED)

34.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes operating software to continuously illuminate a display of the portable computing device. ~~at a maximum illumination level.~~

35.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program ~~includes operating~~ includes operating software to continuously display a digital image on the display of the portable computing device. ~~at a maximum illumination level.~~

36.   (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable computing device, comprising:

responsive to a connector of the portable computing device being connected to a connector of an accessory device, receiving on one or more signal lines, one or more signals from the accessory device, the one or more signals including a power signal;

automatically determining a type of accessory device coupled to the portable computing device using a one or more signals on the one or more signal lines; and

responsive to receiving the power signal from the accessory device, suspending a feature for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity; and

responsive to receiving one or more signals from the accessory device, executing at least one program based on the type of accessory device.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein suspending a feature for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device includes suspending the feature for reducing an intensity of light in a display of the portable computer device.

38.   (CANCELED)

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein automatically determining a type of accessory device coupled to the portable computing device includes determining a level of power that is supplied by the accessory device to the portable computing device.

CLAIMS 40-42: (CANCELED)

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, suspending execution of at least a portion of a program includes suspending execution of at least the portion of the program that would reduce the power consumption of the portable computing device by altering at least one of a performance or a function of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity.

44.   (Previously Presented) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

        detecting whether an external power is being provided to the portable computing device from a computing device external to the portable computing device;

        if the external power is not being provided, executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption after a given duration of inactivity; else

        if the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program; and

        causing the external computing device and the portable computing device to communicate with one another in response to a user-interaction with an interface of the external computing device.

45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein while the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining a display of the portable computing device at a high setting of brightness unless an input is provided from the user to reduce or turn-off the display.

46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein while the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining a content appearing on a display of the portable computing device.

47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the content corresponds to a digital photograph.

48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining a backlight of a display, after the backlight is turned on, while the external power is being provided.

49.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein

if the external power is not being provided, executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption includes switching a backlight off a first given duration after the backlight is turned on;

if the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining the backlight on for at least a duration that is longer than the first given duration.

50.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein

if the external power is not being provided, executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption includes switching a backlight off a first given duration of inactivity after the backlight is turned on;

if the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining the backlight on for at least a duration of inactivity that is longer than the first given duration of inactivity.

51.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption after a given duration of inactivity includes placing the portable computing device into a sleep-mode.

52.   (New) The method of claim 30, wherein determining a type of the accessory device includes determining whether the accessory device is a device that extends power from an external power supply or an external computing device.

53.   (New) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

operating the portable computing device in a first mode of high power consumption;

detecting inactivity in the user operating the portable computing device for a first duration of time when the portable computing device is in the first mode of high power consumption;

responsive to detecting inactivity for the duration of time, executing a first programmed event to switch operation of the portable computing device from the first mode into a second

mode of intermediate power consumption, in which a display of the portable computing device is at least partially powered;

detecting whether an accessory device is actively connected to provide power to the portable computing device;

while the portable computing device is in the second mode, detecting inactivity in the user operating the portable computing device for a second duration of time,

responsive to detecting inactivity for the second duration of time and if the accessory device is not detected as being actively connected, executing a second programmed event to switch operation of the portable computing device from the second mode into a third mode of lower power consumption in which the display is not powered; else

responsive to detecting inactivity for the second duration of time and if the accessory device is detected as being actively connected, suspending execution of the second programmed event that would otherwise reduce a power consumption of the portable computing device after the second duration of inactivity, wherein suspending execution of the second programmed event includes performing at least one of (i) maintaining operation of the portable computing device in the second mode, or (ii) executing a third programmed event to switch operation of the portable computing device from the second mode to the first mode.

54.   (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the accessory device corresponds to a device that extends power from an external power supply.

55.   (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the accessory device is a communication device.

56.   (New) A method for operating a portable computing device, comprising:

enabling execution of at least a portion of a program to selectively power on and power off a backlight of a display screen for the portable computing device in response to one or more events, wherein selectively powering on and powering off the backlight is independent of the display screen;

detecting a period of inactivity in a user-interaction with the portable computing device;

responsive to detecting the period of inactivity, suspending a feature for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device, including executing at least the portion of the program to power off the backlight independent of the display screen being powered on; and

displaying a digital photograph while the display screen is powered on.

57.   (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising detecting whether an accessory device is providing power to the portable computing device, and responsive to determining that the accessory device is providing power, recharging a battery of the portable computing device.

58.   (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the method further comprises:

responsive to not detecting the accessory device providing power, powering off the display screen after an other period of inactivity.

59.   (New) The method of claim 56, wherein suspending a feature for reducing power consumption includes delaying execution of the feature.

60.　　(New) A method for operating a portable computing device, comprising:

　　　receiving power from an accessory device, wherein the power is carried from the accessory device on one or more signal lines that extend from a connector of the portable computing device that is connected to a connector of the accessory device;

　　　responsive to receiving the power from the accessory device, suspending a feature for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity;

　　　after suspending the feature, operating one or more applications to display data on the portable computing device.

61.　　(New) The method of claim 60, wherein operating one or more applications to display data includes communicating with a data network to display the data.

62.　　(New) The method of claim 61, further comprising continuously communicating with the data network.

63.　　(New) The method of claim 60, wherein operating one or more applications to display data includes displaying digital photographs.

64.　　(New) The method of claim 60, wherein the accessory device corresponds to a device that extends power from an external power supply.

65.   (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the accessory device corresponds to an external computing device.

66.   (New) A portable computing device comprising:

a connector comprising a plurality of signal lines;

a processor programmed to:

> detect an accessory device that is connected to the connector;
>
> automatically determine information indicating whether the accessory device is of a particular type, and responsive to determining that the accessory device is of the particular type, execute a program for the type of accessory device; and
>
> automatically detect whether the accessory device supplies power across the connector, and responsive to detecting power, suspend execution of at least a portion of a program that would otherwise reduce a power level of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity.

67.   (New) The portable computing device of claim 66, further comprising a rechargeable battery, and wherein the portable computing device is configured to to recharge the battery when power is supplied from the accessory device.

68.   (New) The portable computing device of claim 67, further comprising:

an antenna for receiving wireless communications; and

a display.

69.   (New) The portable computing device of claim 68, wherein after the processor suspends execution of at least the portion of the program, the processor is configured to continuously display data from a data network on the display for at least a duration in which the accessory device supplies power.

70.   (New) The portable computing device of claim 66, further comprising:
       a display; and
       a backlight for the display; and
       wherein the processor is configured to suspend execution of at least the portion of the program by powering off the backlight independent of the display.